

## Message Text

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40

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 OMB-01 RSR-01

/136 W

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R 081640 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7753

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3161

COPENHAGEN HOLD FOR MC GUIRE

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, PFOR, EFIN, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, JUNE 7, 1973: BELGIAN  
STATEMENT ON BURDENSARING

REF: BRUSSELS 3032

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1. "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE" OF JUNE 8 REPORTS THAT BELGIAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE VANDEN BOEYNANTS MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT "IN SUBSTANCE" AT DPC IN RESPONSE TO SCHLESINGER APPEAL FOR GREATER EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENSE "THE AMERICAN SENATE SHOULD REREAD THE SPEECH MADE BY MR. ROGERS IN 1971. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE AT THAT TIME UNDERLINED THAT THE EUROPEANS WERE VERY LARGELY DOING THEIR PART IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CONTINENT. THEY ASK US NOW TO INCREASE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COST OF STATIONING AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE, WITH A VIEW TO RELIEVING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. WE DO NOT REFUSE TO EXAMINE THIS PROBLEM, BUT WE ARE ALREADY FORMING SERIOUS RESERVATIONS. WE WANT TO SEE VERY CLEARLY. ONE MUSTN'T LOOK FOR PRETEXTS TO CAMAUFAGE IN FACT THE DESIRE OF THE US TO DISENGAGE FROM EUROPE. WE MUST SPEAK FRANKLY ON THIS MATTER." REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT THIS "BRUTAL INTERVENTION" WAS SUPPORTED IN SOMEWHAT GENTLER TERMS BY THE BRITISH AND GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTERS.

2. WE HAD NO PRIOR INDICATION THAT BELGIUM WOULD TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN THE DISCUSSION ON BURDENSARING OR EXPRESS SUCH STRONG FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT. IN FACT, WE HAD BEEN LEAD TO BELIEVE THAT THE BELGIANS, WHILE NOT PREPARED TO DEFINITELY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO AN INCREASED CONTRIBUTION, WOULD FAVOR A MODERATE EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO THE US BURDENSARING INITIATIVE. REPORT OF VANDEN BOEYNANTS' AS QUOTED ABOVE IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH DESCRIPTION IN PARA 10 OF USNATO 2832 OF HIS INTERVENTION.

3. WE WILL TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK EXPLANATION OF BELGIAN POSITION. STRAUSS- HUPE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**To:** ANKARA  
ATHENS  
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LISBON  
LONDON

SECSTATE WASHDC

WASHDC

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